

Meet the Workers; TMC Inc. Masonry

Met Laurie DuRocher (*photo at right*), Estimator and Project Manager for TMC Inc. Masonry

contractors. **TMC Masonry** is the subcontractor under **McAlvain Construction** and we can thank TMC Inc. for the masonry restoration that has been going on at the Capitol. They have removed (by grinding out last fall) the deteriorated mortar on the east side, replaced mortar between the sandstone slabs with fresh mortar, and have removed and replaced dutchmen at the top of the Capitol (*photo below, a dutchman is the lighter colored stone work patching the face of an existing stone.*) Their workers have been on the scaffolding which has now been taken down, and starting this month, if the weather cooperates, they will put up more scaffolding and start on the west side of the Capitol. If the temperature is too cold or too hot, or if the stone is wet, mortar and caulking can't be done.



TMC utilized the **Sponge-Jet, Inc.**, system to clean the horizontal surfaces of the sandstone and will use this method again to clean the base granite and rusticated sandstone which wrap the perimeter of the building. The Sponge Jet system uses small sponges at designated pressure. Sponge jetting is the most gentle and safest way to clean sandstone; the sponge material absorbs dirt as it hits the building. Laurie says that sandstone is a soft material which can be easily damaged, and extreme care is needed to ensure that the exterior stone is not compromised by abrasive action.



All of the sandstone for the building originates from the Terteling Spring Formation at the Table Rock quarry above the Old Penitentiary. The original sandstone was all hand tooled. The replacement sandstone dutchmen, so named after the Dutchman who put his finger in the dyke to protect his village from flood, originates from Table Rock and is taken to Idaho Travertine in Idaho Falls for cutting and shaping. Much of the tooling is done by hand when placed in the wall. The granite at the base of the building is thought to have originated from a now-closed quarry in Montana.

Replacement granite that matches the existing stone has been located in Alabama. The granite to be replaced will be cut into small pieces for removal and the replacement pieces will be slid into place.

Laurie says that TMC Masonry workers look forward to climbing up the new scaffolding that should be placed on the south elevation in February, and finishing the sandstone and granite work by June, 2002.

Because of the unforeseen multiple layers and the extreme hardness of the concrete, demolition of the west steps is moving more slowly than anticipated, but hopefully the demolition will be completed by the end of February.

Please note: **The intent of *renewal news* is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to Diane Blume at: dblume@adm.state.id.us See *renewal news* online at: <http://www.capitolcommission.idaho.gov/restoration/> If you have questions about renewal news, contact Carole Schroeder at 332-1802 or cschroed@adm.state.id.us**